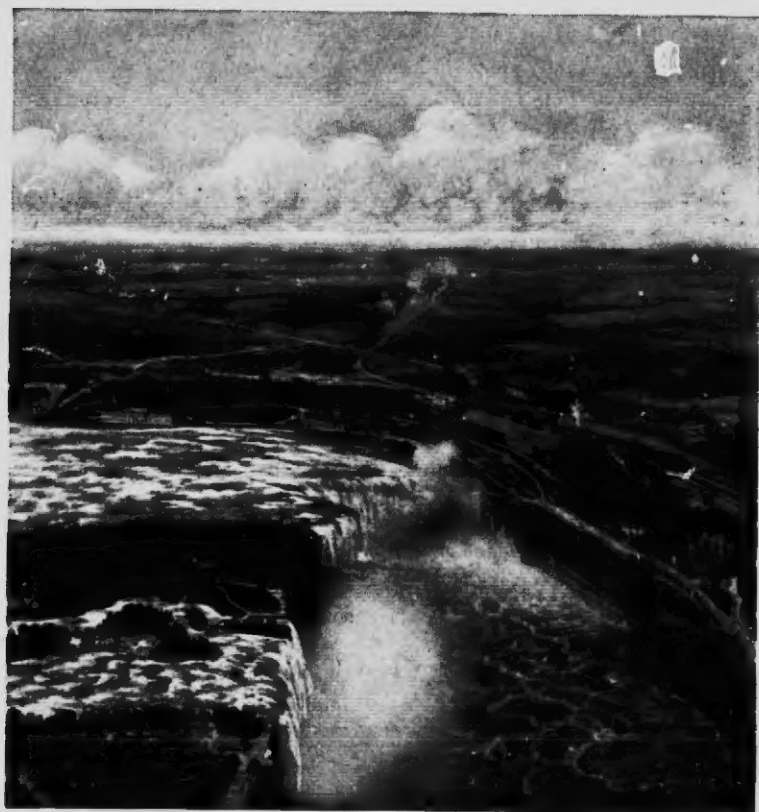


**THE ORIGIN
OF THE
ONTARIO
HYDRO-ELECTRIC
POWER MOVEMENT**



Genesis of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Movement

FOREWORD

Although this movement is of comparatively recent origin, there have been many inquiries as to the particulars relating thereto. Mr. James Mitchell, the Ontario representative of the Canadian Archives, having just completed an investigation of the particulars, as per signed statement of summary in connection with same, the Kitchener Light Commissioners thought it opportune and appropriate to present such statement to its sister Municipalities and Commissions bound together in this wonderful, unique and highly beneficial power system, also a short reference to the opening of the system here in 1910, and the development of the power movement since that date.

"Great Oaks from little acorns grow". Following the failure of the City of Toronto in 1902 to secure permissive legislation to develop and transmit power at or from Niagara Falls, the promoters here of the co-operative municipal movement had their vision of practicable distance bounded by Toronto on the East, Guelph and Kitchener on the North and Woodstock on the West. Representation from that area only conferred in the first three meetings.

Probably considerable stimulus to energetic action in this movement was engendered in the discussion at the Board of Trade meeting, when after everyone's refusal to go on a committee for co-operative effort, it was jocularly suggested to the persistent advocate of the scheme that he be a committee (of one), which was accepted in a sportsman-like spirit.

The data gathered enlarged the vision. Strong representation and support was received from Stratford, London and St. Thomas in the fourth or pivotal meeting. In practice our capable, aggressive Provincial Commission was not long in extending the service to Windsor, a distance of 240 miles, as well as other distant points now being served from Niagara, while many municipalities in other districts are being served by the Provincial Commission.

We therefore beg to extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to our co-partners in this vast enterprise.

THE KITCHENER LIGHT COMMISSIONERS.

Kitchener, March, 1919.

THE ONTARIO HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER MOVEMENT.

Summary as Now Filed in the Offices of the Canadian Public Archives of Canada, at Ottawa.

(Compiled from the Records in the First Official Minute Book and Newspaper Reports.)

The annual banquet of the Waterloo Board of Trade was held on the evening of February 11, 1902, the banquet being described in the local press of Waterloo and Berlin as "the largest and most successful ever held by that body." From the reports appearing in these papers the following extracts are made.

Berlin News-Record Feb. 12, 1902.

Among the topics discussed in the reply to "Manufacturing Interests", Mr. E. W. B. Snider, the chief speaker, pointed out that banquetting is not all that Boards of Trade should do. He advocated steps being taken to secure more industries of diversified character, and also that a Committee of men from Berlin, Waterloo, Guelph and Galt be formed to take up the question of bringing motive power from Niagara Falls into this district.

**Berlin Telegraph, Feb.
12, 1902:—**

He (Mr. Snider) was of opinion that as Toronto was discussing the utilization of power from Niagara Falls, Waterloo should seek the co-operation of Boards of Trade of Berlin, Galt and Guelph, and the Mayors of Preston and Hespeler, to investigate the matter. If Waterloo could offer cheap power to manufacturers, it would greatly assist in its future progress.



Mr. E. W. B. Snider, Ex. M.P.P.
Chairman Ont. Power Com. 1903-1906
The man who first suggested Ontario
Municipal Niagara Power Distribution.

tion of the Boards of Berlin, Galt and Guelph, and the mayors of Preston and Hespeler, to investigate the matter. If Waterloo could offer cheap power to manufacturers, it would greatly assist in its future progress.

Page Two

**Waterloo Chronicle-Tel-
egraph, Feb. 13:—**

One of the most timely and interesting addresses of the evening was that delivered by Mr. E. W. B. Snider, of St. Jacobs, in responding to the toast of "The Manufacturing Interests". He thought more variety in our manufacturing interest was required, and he suggested that young men should branch out for themselves. He was of opinion that as Toronto was discussing the utilization of power from Niagara Falls, Waterloo should seek the co-operation

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Under date Feb. 13th, 1902, Mr. D.B. Detweiler, of Berlin, wrote Mr. Snider in the matter, and under date Feb. 14th Mr. Snider replied from Toronto, in which he said:

"It is the company at present engaged to put in a power plant at Niagara Falls I had reference to, not the Government undertaking. The City of Toronto making efforts to secure power from this company, I thought it a good time for the several towns like Waterloo, Berlin, Preston, Hespeler, Galt and Guelph, as 'a hive' of industries, joining hands, and with a united effort, in conjunction with Toronto, might in that way secure some special privileges that might not be secured later on.



Mr. D. B. Detweiler
The "Committee of One" and the man
who promoted this great enterprise in
its initial stage.

"Possibly something better might be accomplished with the Cataract Power Co. These are matters the joint committee of the towns mentioned could with advantage take up and investigate. I believe it would have a tendency to greatly facilitate locating new industries in the midst of our several towns if electric power were secured on a satisfactory basis. The sooner the better."

An article in the Berlin Telegraph of April 10, 1902, headed "Power From Niagara", said:

"There are some gentlemen in Berlin who have become intensely interested in securing power from Niagara Falls, being stimulated by an address delivered by Mr. E. W. B. Snider, ex-M.P.P., at the Waterloo Board of Trade banquet some months ago. They have been investigating the matter for some time past. One of these gentlemen, in conversation with the Telegraph this morning, said that he believed it was an opportune time for the Boards of Trade of Waterloo, Berlin, Guelph and Galt, and the Councils of Preston and Hespeler, to take united action in the securing of power from Niagara Falls. There are several hydraulic companies that have been formed during the past few years, and with the assistance of the above named cities and towns, some plan might be devised for making use of the power of the great cataract that is being wasted from year to year.

"As to the benefits to be derived from the use of power from Niagara Falls the following conversation with Mr. E. H. Keating, Manager of the Toronto Street Railway Co., reported in Wednesday's Mail and Empire (April 9) will be of particular interest". (The item showed that the street railway company were very desirous of getting cheaper power, and believed it could be got in some way from Niagara Falls.)

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A meeting of the Council of the Berlin Board of Trade was held on Thursday, May 8, 1902. Mr. S. J. Williams, President, in the chair. The report in the News-Record said:

"Vice-President Detweiler introduced two important matters. One was the transportation problem, the proper solution of which, Mr. Detweiler believes, can be found only in the nationalization of our railways, to be operated by a commission of experts, instead of by politicians. The other was the advisability of appointing a committee from different inland towns, to take what steps they can to secure power from Niagara Falls.

"Mr. Williams stated that he did not think the proposition would receive the support that it deserved. Toronto had tried to secure just what was under consideration, and they had been fired from the Legislature. Then the Toronto Street Railway had asked for it and got it. If the towns interested put up \$5,000 for an expense fund, it would not be a drop in the bucket when they run up against the lobbyists of such corporations as the Toronto Street Railway and Electric Light Companies.

"Mr. Detweiler believed that figures could be secured to convince manufacturers that it is a good thing, and that by the municipalities working together something could be accomplished.

"Several gentlemen refused to go on such a committee, but Mr. Detweiler and Mr. Snider were appointed to prepare a resolution dealing with the matter."

Under date May 9, 1902, Mr. Detweiler wrote Mr. Chas. E. Mitchell, C.E., (of the firm of C. H. & P. H. Mitchell, Hydraulic and Electrical Engineers, Toronto) and who was consulting engineer of the Ontario Power Co. at Niagara, and Mr. Mitchell replied under date May 16, as follows:

"I have yours of the 9th. inst., which I have not been able to answer sooner on account of my absence from here. I hope my delay in this has not inconvenienced you, especially as I understand you were in a hurry for a reply.

"I understand from yours that arrangements have been made to hold a meeting of manufacturers in your locality, with a view toward taking up the matter of power transmission for manufacturing purposes. I must say that those interested with you should be highly commended in making this enterprising move, particularly as the present time is most opportune in this respect, and I have no doubt that action taken now in preparing a way for transmission of electrical energy from the Falls, will assist very materially in its ultimate success.

"I will be pleased to meet you and your friends as you desire, for the purpose of discussing the matter of power transmission from here, and giving you any information which I can afford towards placing this question fairly before you. I do not think I can be considered, as you say, a "dis-interested Engineer," as I am resident engineer for the Ontario Power Co., which is now commencing the development of a very large installation at Niagara Falls. However, I do not see that this should stand in the way of my assisting you in going into this matter. I am sure we are all interested in the development of our own country and in its manufacturing interests, particularly in the locality of Western Ontario. As you no doubt know, I have been engaged in a number of water power propositions in Ontario, and feel that I am in a position to materially assist you in the discussion of power as applied to manufacturing industries. You can understand that few engineers in Ontario, who are conversant with the subject, can be fairly termed dis-interested, as all are more or less connected with the several large power projects which are in operation or under construction.

"Should you desire to have me take this up for you and meet you, I would require to have some little notice, that I might prepare my material for the purpose, and make the necessary arrangements to be present with you. As to remuneration, I cannot say definitely, but at any rate would expect my expenses and a small fee in addition, not to exceed \$25.00.

Yours very truly,"

Monday, June 9th., was fixed as the day for meeting Mr. Mitchell with a banquet at the Walper House in Berlin, and a subscription list was secured containing 25 names towards meeting the expenses of such a gathering.

Berlin, GDR., June 8, 1960.

ST. LOUIS, MO., JULY 25, 1934

A meeting has been arranged to be held at the Helmer House, Seattle, June 20, (Monday next) at 11 a.m. to discuss and arrange information on the above case.

The services of Stuart L. Bell, Jr., of Niagara Falls, who is a
resident 1810 Erie Street in Niagara Falls, have been secured to
provide information.

Approximately 500 ft. in the neighborhood of the same and

TO CITY OF CHICAGO ARCHIVE BY [redacted]

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Following names have been contributed:—

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100th 12 days pd	2.00

A facsimile of the original subscription list. The forty-five dollars above subscribed has developed in sixteen years to an investment by the municipalities of approximately thirty-six million dollars. (\$36,000,000)

THE ONTARIO HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER MOVEMENT.

Mr. Snider was appointed chairman of the meeting and Mr. Detweiler secretary, and a minute book was opened in which all the meetings held, from this one of June-9, 1902, until a call for a meeting to be held in Berlin, July 9, 1903, were recorded. The first three meetings held led up to the appointment of Messrs. Snider and Detweiler as a committee to gather data as to the price at which power could be secured, how far it could reasonably be expected, and the possible market for power. The report of this committee enabled the holding of a very large and representative meeting in Berlin on Feb. 17, 1903, and this meeting may be said to have been the pivotal point, at which the organization of the municipalities was assured, and a large committee appointed to wait upon the Government and secure their endorsement of the movement. Of this meeting an article in *Toronto Saturday Night* said:

"The Berlin convention on the electrical power question has been held. Speeches were made and resolutions passed and within a few hours after assembling together the mayors and other municipal delegates had scattered again to their homes. Little noise was made. The convention did its work quietly and in a business like way, which suggested that its members knew what they wanted and were not to be stalled or stampeded. Considering the magnitude of the questions handled, there was a surprising unanimity of opinion, and, if the members of the Ontario Government are wise, they will not longer deafen their ears against the rising clamor of the multitude, of which this Berlin Convention, with its proclamation of municipal needs and municipal rights, is perhaps but the first faint blast. Such a gathering, drawn together for a definite, tangible object, marked by so much earnestness and conviction, is something new in the annals of Ontario politics, and may prove to be an epoch-making or epoch-marking event. The very name "Berlin Convention" has a curious significance. Historically it suggests a gathering not of tribunes of the people, but of the representatives of royalty and age-long privilege, come together to discuss not public needs, but the interests of dynasties and the conflicting claims of armed and aristocratic Governments. "Berlin Convention," to the people of Ontario at least, are words which henceforward will possess a new and better significance. They will now connote a declaration of popular rights as opposed to monopolistic privilege. They will suggest a new, and let us hope, a better tendency in the administration of great public franchises. They will inspire with new hope and purpose all advocates of industrial and political progress, who believe that the many were not designed to forever be bled and bullied by the few. They should be watchwords of a new order of things, municipally and provincially, in Ontario. The practical results of the Berlin gathering may still be far off and hard to attain, but the words there spoken and the purpose there put on record in behalf of popular rights in the development of natural powers, cannot fail to have a bracing influence on the politicians, and will not be lightly forgotten by the people whom the politicians are supposed to serve."

As a result of the meeting held in Berlin, Feb. 17, 1903, a large delegation representing all the municipalities which had become interested in the movement, was assembled at the Parliament Buildings in Toronto on Feb. 27th, and after presenting their demands to Premier Ross he promised that a bill would be introduced forming a Commission who would proceed along the lines suggested, in purchasing and distributing power. Such a bill was passed June 12, 1903, and at a meeting of municipalities held at a later date a committee was appointed to be known as the Western Ontario Power Commission, consisting of Messrs. E. W. B. Snider, of St. Jacobs, P. W. Ellis of Toronto, W. F. Cockshutt, of Brantford, Hon. Adam Beck of London, and R. A. Fessenden, an electrical engineer, with Mr. Snider as chairman. Under date March 28th. 1906, this Commission

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presented an exhaustive report of some 70 printed pages, with charts, which was made the basis of action by the Ontario- Hydro-Electric Power Commission appointed by the Whitney Government June 7, 1906.

Further data and particulars regarding the work of the new Ontario Commission will be found in their annual reports as issued each year and submitted to the Government.

I certify the foregoing correct as taken from the records which I have gathered and which are now in the Department of Public Archives in Ottawa.

Dated December 7th, 1918.

Sd. JAMES MITCHELL,

Ontario Rep. Public Archives of Canada.



A Great Day for Ontario and the City

On October 11th, 1910, electric power, generated at Niagara Falls as a municipal-ownership undertaking, was first turned on at Berlin, Ont. The idea of utilizing the current from the Great Cataract had its conception here. It was therefore deemed becoming to inaugurate the service at the birthplace of the movement.

At the Hydro opening, 8,000 persons foregathered to witness the formalities in connection with the act that flashed on the power at Niagara, instantaneously illuminated the auditorium and marked the ushering in of a new power era. Numbered among those present on the historic occasion were Sir James Whitney, Adam Beck, members of the cabinet, several American citizens, Mayors, Reeves, Aldermen and others prominent in the manufacturing, mercantile and public life of Ontario.

The honor of touching the button was reserved for the late Sir James Whitney who had consistently supported Mr. Beck in the great task of securing and distributing Niagara power to a small group of enterprising municipalities.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission had contracted for 100,000 h.p. from the Ontario Power Company. While this seemed a ten-times larger amount than might possibly be required, Sir James never wavered in his support of the project. He complimented our citizens, whom, he said, "appeared to an outsider, to be men of independence of character; men possessed of self-reliance,—Men who do not lean upon other people. Each standing for himself." October 11, 1910, was a great day for Berlin and a great day for Ontario."

Nearly nine years have since elapsed. The Hydro municipalities have not only utilized the 100,000 h.p. set aside for them but have purchased the Ontario Power Company's generating plant, having a total capacity of 211,300 h.p., and have under construction the Chippewa Creek canal, which will provide another block of 300,000 h.p. Today there are 207 Municipalized or publicly owned plants, of 452,508, h.p. total capacity in Canada. The acorn has become an oak.

In these times, Hydro power is a commonplace matter. Yet its obtainment involved tremendous effort. Sir James told of the difficulties and trials which beset all concerned. The work, antedating the simple action of pressing a button, represented a \$3,500,000 experiment. To a certain extent the municipalities

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had been groping in the dark and acting without precedent. Sir James averred that it was one of the most important experiments of modern times. No government in Canada had taken such risks in the interest of the people. "We have been attacked, vilified and slandered. Large sums of money have been expended in forming prejudice and illfeeling against us. Our opponents left nothing undone, which could be done, and men of influence, from the humblest in the land to the Prime Minister of Great Britain, were approached in the endeavor to destroy our power legislation and render it impossible for the wonderful resource and force to be used and enjoyed by the people, except on the terms laid down by private corporations and individuals. Further we have been told it would destroy the credit of Ontario and indeed of Canada. Opponents tried to have our legislation disallowed at Ottawa."



The late Sir. James P. Whitney
K. C. M. G.
Premier of Ontario 1905-1914

turned on at Berlin—that it be first to receive the finished product—the home of men of vision, men who peered into the future with confidence, and called the first meeting of representative men together to consider ways and means of securing electric power for manufacturing and other purposes. Six of the original dozen of contracting municipalities are in Waterloo County.

Sir James Whitney accepted the honor of pressing the button. In doing so he displayed rare tact. He first placed Adam Beck's finger on the key and his own over it and brought Niagara's Power into use. This graceful acknowledgment of the valiant part the Minister of Power had played in the great undertaking, caught the imagination of the large assemblage. It made the rafters ring with hearty cheers.

When Sir Adam, as he is styled today, came to speak, he asserted that it was fitting that Niagara power should first be



Sir Adam Beck, K.B., L.L.D., M.P.P.
Chairman Ontario Hydro Power Com

Peering into the future, he declared that Canada was not going to stand still. That 100,000 h.p. would not long suffice the municipalities nor 200,000 h.p. It would be the duty of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission to secure whatever amount of power was needed. "We shall not rest", he proceeded, "until we have no more coal oil, no more gas, and I hope, no more coal."

THE ONTARIO HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER MOVEMENT.



**King Street Looking West on Night of
Hydro Electric Inauguration.**

In the evening the town was brilliantly illuminated with Niagara current. Bands marched and huge crowds paraded the streets and celebrated the advent of Hydro Power. A monster banquet was held in the Market building attended by hundreds of men prominent in Ontario's public life and affairs. Both it and the earlier formalities were by general consent declared to be the greatest celebration in the town's history.

The 1,000 h.p. of energy purchased by the then town was considered a large quantity. Today Kitchener uses 4,800. h.p. Before Hydro came, the price of electricity averaged \$50. Today it is purchased by the city at \$19.

The securing of this service was of prime economic importance. With the probability of further power being developed on the St. Lawrence; with Hydro Radials assured; and the electrification of the steam railways of the province appreciably nearer, Hydro is still in knickerbockers, and Sir Adam's vision of an oilless, gasless and coalless age in the province, may not be derided as an impossibility.

That Hydro will go far and accomplish much will be readily granted. As time elapses and it fulfills its destiny, lasting honor will be conferred on the men who conceived the idea, on those who assisted to consummate the vision and on the town where the movement began and Hydro was first used.

THE ONTARIO HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER MOVEMENT.



THE ONTARIO HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER MOVEMENT.

The Growth of the Municipal Hydro Movement

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, which was appointed by the Whitney Government in June, 1906, immediately started operations for the transmission of Niagara Power. By-laws were submitted in various Municipalities and on May 4th., 1908, a contract was signed between the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and 14 municipalities for a supply of power as follows:

MUNICIPALITIES	H.P. contracted for
Berlin	1000
Guelph	2500
Waterloo	685
Preston	600
Woodstock	1200
London	5000
Stratford	1000
Toronto	10000
St. Thomas	1500
Galt	1200
Hespeler	300
St. Mary's	500
New Hamburg	250
Ingersoll	500
Total	26,235

The first seven of the fourteen municipalities named above, with contracts amounting to 11,985 H.P., were first supplied with electric energy from Niagara Falls by the Commission over their own transmission lines during the last two months of 1910, the official opening of Hydro Power taking place in Kitchener on Oct. 11, 1910, the power being turned on here by the late Sir James Whitney on that date. It might be of interest at this point to state that Kitchener was the only municipality of the original fourteen to take the full allotment of power contracted for.

Since that date to Dec. 31, 1918, the Niagara district has grown from the original fourteen municipalities to 134 municipalities which have signed contracts with the Hydro-Electric Power Commission for power, amounting to a total load of 151,348 H.P. In addition to the Niagara System the Hydro-Electric Power Commission have installed and taken over other systems so that at present they control the following:—

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Eugenia System	Serves 43 Municipalities,	load 9,450 H.P.
Severn System		
Wasdell's System		
Nipissing System	Serves 4 Municipalities,	load 1,200 H.P.
Muskoka System	Serves 2 Municipalities,	load 1,126 H.P.
Ottawa System	Serves 1 Municipality,	load 6,793 H.P.
Port Arthur System	Serves 1 Municipality,	load 4,495 H.P.
Central Ontario	Serves 22 Municipalities,	load 23,500 H.P.
St. Lawrence System	Serves 5 Municipalities,	load 506 H.P.
Rideau System	Serves 2 Municipalities,	load 459 H.P.
Essex County System	Serves 7 Municipalities,	load 400 H.P.

Totaling the above figures you will find that the Municipal Hydro Power Scheme now comprises 221 municipalities being served with a total load of 199,277 H.P., and bringing benefits derived from electric power to the homes of 1,357,783 people.

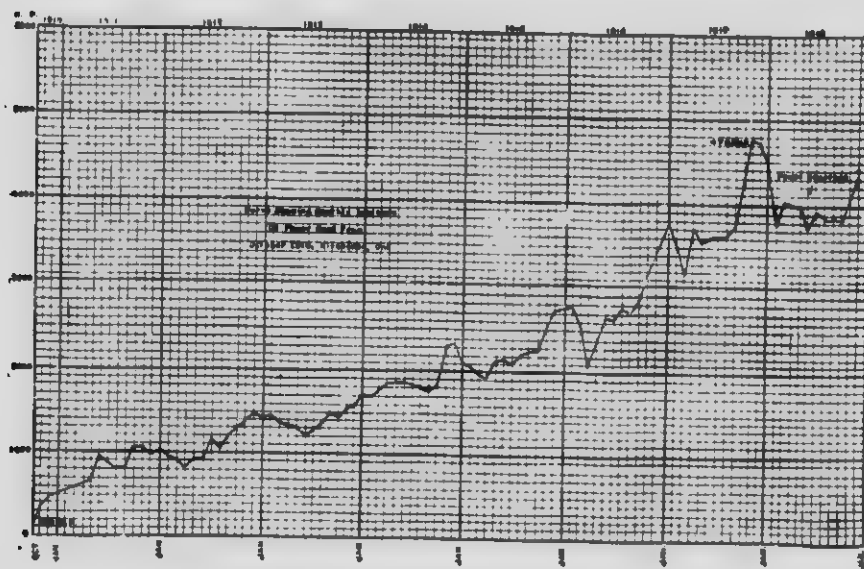


Chart showing growth of Kitchener's power load

Not only has Municipal Hydro transmission and development been carried to the cities and towns throughout the Province, but through the energetic efforts of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario it has been extended to rural districts for farm use, so that now electricity on the farm is used for practically every requirement.

In the rural districts surrounding Kitchener and Waterloo there are 42 farmers using Hydro Power. Hydro Power is used for milking their cows, pumping water, silo filling, threshing their grain, churning, ironing and washing, lighting

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houses and barns, and in several cases also doing the necessary cooking and baking required. Taking one particular farm as an instance of the amount of work done during the past year. This farmer filled his silo, which was 30 ft.x12 ft.x40 ft., threshed 900 bushels of wheat, 1500 bushels of oats, and 800 bushels of mixed grain, chopping 2,200 bushels of grain, and sawing 10 cords of wood, besides the regular milking, churning, ironing, lighting, etc., required.

At the present time the Hydro Power Commission are serving 23 farm districts as follows:—

District	Approximate Miles of line	Rural Lighting Consumers	Farms Served
East Flamboro	4½	50	5
West Flamboro		46	6
Pickering		4	3
Toronto	30	400	6
Etobicoke	11½	700	6
Scarboro	10	300	4
Vaughan	22	150	6
Waterloo Township	4½		19
Petersburg and St. Agatha	7	20	8
Breslau	7½	13	12
Bridgeport Village	2	37	3
Stamford		350	6
Strongville		67	2
Goderich Extension		7	1
Harwich Township	1		3
Ancaster	8	100	10
Townsend	4		11
Brantford		300	2
Grantham	22	110	50
Louth	4		20
Dereham	35	38	79
North Norwich	40	14	26
Whitby		75	20

The total of the above statistics show 213 miles of rural lines, serving 2781 rural lighting consumers, and bringing Hydro Power benefits to 308 farmers.



THE QUALITY PRINTERS, LIMITED, KITCHENER, ONT.

